UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF BANGLADESH, EGYPT, INDIA, NEPAL, SUDAN AND UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Development of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programmes
(INT/78/010)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	October 1978
Starting date of project activities:	October 1978
Planned completion date:	March 1980
To be executed by:	World Health Organization (WHO)
Government implementing agencies:	Designated National Groups
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$560 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The United Nations Water Conference, held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, in March 1977, adopted the goal of providing, through international co-operation, adequate and safe water supplies and sanitation for all people by 1990, under the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981 - 1990).

2. In support of the Decade, a seven-Agency Steering Committee (the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and UNDP) has been established as an outgrowth of the recommendation for a joint collaborative mechanism for on-going work in the

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*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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development of water supply and sanitation contained in the Report of the Second Session of the Task Force established under the WHO-executed project, "Rural Potable Water Supply and Sanitation" (GLO/74/001,[1] which was assisted by UNDP from 1974 through 1977.

3. The project is intended to carry forward and link, with emphasis at the country level, collaborative efforts among Agencies to promote the goals of the International Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The immediate objective of the project is to provide assistance to the participating countries in developing sound national plans for community drinking water supply and sanitation development. Such national plans are envisaged as a means of facilitating the flow of additional resources to the developing countries and in spurring increased national commitment to the Decade. The project will also provide for the upgrading, through training, of national officials engaged in the planning and management of drinking water supply and sanitation schemes.

5. Activities will be closely linked with the Labour-Intensive Public Works Programmes (INT/78/020), executed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO),[2] the WHO/World Bank Co-operative Programme; and the WHO Sixth General Programme of Work covering the period 1978-1981. The assistance provided will supplement funds that WHO is receiving from bilateral sources for similar work in other countries. The project will also complement the World Bank executed, UNDP-assisted global project on Low-Cost Water and Sanitation Techniques, Development of Demonstration Projects (GLO/78/006), preparatory assistance for which was approved at the 25th session of the Governing Council, a first phase project at the January 1979 meetings,[3] and supplementary assistance at the 26th session.[4] Close liaison will be maintained with UNICEF, whose experience is wide in the application of appropriate technology in rural drinking water programmes.

6. The UNDP Resident Representatives in the participating countries will be called upon to exercise their role as the focal point in co-ordinating project activities with other development efforts in the country, both government-run and international/bilateral, and in identifying appropriate subregional, regional and interregional projects for the Water Decade, as called for by Resolution VIII of the Water Conference on "Institutional Arrangements for International Co-operation in the Water Sector".

III. Inputs

7. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, for the preparation of the national plans, consultant services in sanitary engineering, hydrology, social science, economics, financial analysis, systems analysis, statistics, management training and health education, as well as official travel for advisers and Executing Agency staff. The project, to be executed by WHO, will supplement local expertise and resources available through WHO field staff.

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1/ DP/PROJECTS/346.
2/ DP/PROJECTS/2772.
3/ DP/PROJECTS/R.11/Add.4.
4/ DP/PROJECTS/R.12/Add.5.

8. Participating Governments have been requested to establish a National Group comprising representatives of Government departments and agencies responsible for development of the sector to serve as the co-operating body for the project; as well as administrative and support personnel; equipment; premises; and local operating costs.

9. The National Groups, with assistance from advisers to be provided under the project, will prepare short- and long-term plans, programmes and projects; compile and update data; and undertake studies, according to individual country requirements, on such subjects as: availability of water resources; setting design criteria and standards; development and recommendations for use of simple technology; levels of service and demand projections; operation and maintenance of systems; tariff policies; the availability of external and domestic financial resources; institutional aspects; health education, social and cultural aspects and user acceptance and behaviour; manpower needs; and establishment of planning objectives, goals and targets. The National Groups will develop and establish an adequate institutional structure for sound and efficient sector organization, including the operation, management and financing of drinking water supply and sanitation systems. Training is also envisaged for national officials through short courses, seminars, and workshops, in project preparation and evaluation, operation and maintenance of water supply and wastewater systems; social,economic and financial analysis of projects, use of simple design methods and technology (village water and excreta disposal systems); construction of systems (pipe laying); and water quality control (disinfection).

IV. Financial data

10. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	555 000
Miscellaneous	5 000
	560 000

11. Each Government's contribution will amount to $135,000 in kind.

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